

STANDARD SEEKS REPEAL OF 80-CENT GAS LAW

Suit Against Attorney General Alleges Law Does Not Afford Sufficient Revenue.

The Standard Gas Light Company of this city, which furnishes gas in the Boroughs of Manhattan and the Bronx,

yesterday brought suit against Attorney General Newton, District Attorney Swann, District Attorney Martin of the Bronx and Public Service Commissioner Nixon in the Federal Court to repeal the 80-cent gas law of 1908.

The suit is identical with the one recently brought by the Consolidated Gas Company of this city and the Brooklyn Union Gas Company for the same purpose. It is contended that the 80-cent gas law does not afford sufficient revenue to make a profitable return on the investment.

NEW BATTLESHIPS TO COST AMERICA \$30,000,000 EACH

Superdreadnoughts Will Mount Twelve 16-Inch and Sixteen 6-Inch Guns Apiece.

WASHINGTON, May 22.—Bids were opened at the Navy Department yesterday for the construction of two 43,500-ton battleships. These ships will complete the ten authorized by the act of Aug. 29, 1916, to be begun prior to July 1. The bids are nearly double those of 1916 for vessels of the same class, but considering the increased cost of material and labor furnish no surprise to department engineers.

The bids came from the New York Shipbuilding Corporation, which is willing to construct one of the superdreadnoughts on the basis of cost, plus a fixed profit of \$1,800,000, under certain conditions.

The Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corporation submitted alternate bids. With hull and machinery wholly of the Navy Department's design, the Bethlehem people will build one battleship for \$22,580,000. With machinery of the bidder's design the company will build one for \$21,960,000. In each instance a deduction of \$50,000 will be made if yellow pine decking is substituted for teakwood. The Bethlehem Company also agrees to make certain reductions provided labor costs go down, and to make delivery in forty months.

The Newport News Company will build one ship for \$21,900,000, making delivery in forty-five months and using department designs throughout. With geared turbine machinery this company will build one ship for \$21,100,000, deducting in each instance if yellow pine is substituted for teakwood.

The battleships are listed as Nos. 33 and 34. They will have an overall length of 554 feet, beam of 106 feet, mean draft displacement of 43,500 tons, mean draft of 33 feet and a speed of 23 knots. The designs for these vessels were drawn after a careful study of the lessons learned from the European war. The best known protection against torpedoes and mines is provided and the ships will be equipped with mine sweeping gear which has proved successful in the war.

The dreadnoughts will be armed with twelve sixteen-inch guns, sixteen six-inch guns, four anti-aircraft guns, two submerged torpedo tubes and other smaller calibre guns. Their armor belt is to be of the heaviest. The designs call for electrical propulsion, supplied by two turbo-generators. The six ships of this type will have a cruising radius of 8,000 miles.

All the bids are for hull and machinery only. Armament and armor, it is estimated, will raise the final cost of each ship to considerably more than \$30,000,000.

WESTCHESTER NOTES.

A reception will be tendered to the Rev. and Mrs. Thomas Joseph Loebe at the residence of Dr. A. L. Scott at White Plains, Friday evening.

Frequent rehearsals are now being held for the annual high school play to be presented the evening of June 6 at White Plains. "Julius Caesar" and "On High Olympus," a one-act war play written by a member of the junior class, will be given. Arthur Jolley is in charge of the rehearsals.

Miss Iva Lent of Tuckahoe is visiting relatives in Ithaca, N. Y.

Mr. and Mrs. John J. Pettit of Bronxville, have moved to Mount Vernon.

Miss Edith King of West Lincoln Avenue, Mount Vernon, is home after a visit to Schenectady.

The Westchester County Children's Association, of which Mrs. H. L. Baker of Mount Vernon is Second Vice President, will conduct a membership drive from June 1 to June 2.

By an order granted by Justice Morschauser, Charles B. Galvin of Manhattan is allowed \$5,000 a year from the estate of his wife, Mrs. Antoinette E. Galvin, who was recently declared insane and incompetent, for the maintenance of himself and three children. Mrs. Galvin is confined in a sanitarium at Rye, and it costs \$14,280 a year to care for her. The value of her estate is about \$2,000,000. Her income is over \$37,000 a year. Cecilia M. Shield, of No. 3229 Olivette Avenue, Manhattan, is the committee of the property of the incompetent.

Edith Helena, a grand opera singer, is the defendant in a suit brought against her by John H. Steinbeck, a farmer of Putnam County, for \$1,500 damages for cutting off a pipe leading to a spring which furnished water for the plaintiff, and also to compel her to restore the pipe she severed, before Justice Morschauser, in the special term of the Supreme Court at White Plains to-day. Domenico Russo, another grand opera singer, is a witness for the defendant.

Arrangements have been made for an outdoor performance by the Fire-side Players, on the Bronx River Parkway, near the Boy Scouts' Hut, of "The Twig of Thorn," a poetic Irish comedy, on Friday, May 23, for the purpose of raising funds for the benefit of the White Plains Hospital.

Woman Spy Treason Witness.

Mme. Maria K. De Victoria, German agent, was a Government witness in the trial of William J. Robinson for alleged treason before Federal Judge Learned Hand yesterday. Under cross examination she said she had sent Robinson on a mission to the German Consul General at Rotterdam. Among those in court was Albert P. Friske, who was acquitted of treason a few weeks ago. The case will be continued this morning.

MARINE DEAL CUTS STOCKS.

Mercantile Sale of Ships Reduces Value of Shares.

Wall Street was disappointed at the terms of the Mercantile Marine deal, with the result that there was a decline of more than eight points in the common stock and five points in the preferred.

The general belief is that the common stock holders will not benefit from the sale of the British shipping to the extent that has been represented by the market price. Its earning capacity will have to be established by its future operations.

With the redemption of the bonds, the first claim to the assets will rest in the preferred stock, which is also entitled to 50 per cent. in back dividends before the common comes in for a share of the earnings.

The belief in Wall Street is that the company will continue in the shipping business, and will replace its eighty-five British vessels by a large amount

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